UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/1991/SR.16
11 February 1992

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

First session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 10 October 1991, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. BADRAN

CONTENTS

Cooperation with specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organs (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Commission at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.91-17827/4205B

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

COOPERATION WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANS (agenda item 8) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should begin by listening to the statements of the representatives of FAO, WHO, WFP and ILO, and then invite the representative of UNICEF to answer questions raised by members of the Committee at the previous meeting, before proceeding to consider other questions which the Committee might wish to put to participating organizations.

2. It was so decided.

3. Mr. HUSSAIN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) recalled that FAO's basic mandate was to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of member nations and to improve the production and distribution of food and agricultural products. Many of its programmes were directed particularly towards the provision, promotion and maintenance of adequate nutrition for all population groups and included assistance in the formulation of food policies, food situation forecasting, nutrition intervention, feeding programmes for vulnerable groups and improvement of the quality of food to combat disease and malnutrition among children. In addition, FAO's work on food aid and its nutritional impact, particularly during emergencies, helped to improve the nutritional status of children.

4. As part of the follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 1990, FAO was participating in the organization of a conference on micronutrient malnutrition, to be held during the current month in Montreal. In addition, it was to convene in 1992, jointly with WHO and other members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, a global intergovernmental conference on nutrition, which would form part of the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition. Ensuring agricultural development in an effective manner was the other main aspect of FAO's technical assistance activities. It was the only means of guaranteeing the basic right of food for all in the developing countries, since the major source of income in those countries was agriculture and the largest proportion of income was spent on food.

5. FAO could, in the many sectors within the scope of its mandate, contribute to the implementation of article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention by providing expert advice to the Committee and technical assistance to States parties in accordance with the provisions of article 45 of the Convention. However, the scope of its mandate was so broad that officials of the organization would have difficulty in determining exactly what studies might be of interest to the Committee and doubted that the mere fact of attending the Committee's sessions would enable FAO to make a genuine contribution to its work. They therefore requested the Committee to propose issues for study and to call on FAO for assistance whenever it considered it necessary.

6. Mrs. SIMON (World Health Organization) said that children were constantly present in her organization's activities, since they were the subject of vaccination programmes as well as of the fight against diarrhoea, tropical diseases and AIDS, of primary health care, of drinking-water supplies, of activities in favour of adolescents, of mother and child care and of environmental hygiene.

7. In order to make a more direct contribution to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, WHO's Family Health Division had prepared a document on the organization's activities in the field of health and health services, as referred to in article 24 of the Convention, as well as in other sectors, particularly those covered by articles 18, 19, 23, 32 and 34. The measures mentioned in that document included the transmission of information available to WHO on the implementation of those articles. WHO had submitted that document to other organizations for consideration and would transmit it to the Committee as soon as it was finalized. Furthermore, her organization published information on the Convention in its international compendium of health legislation, a quarterly publication, in order to participate in the dissemination of such texts. WHO was, of course, prepared to cooperate with the Committee within the limits of its means.

8. Mr. SHAW (World Food Programme) said that he wished to inform members of his views on the scope and organization of cooperation between the various bodies of the United Nations system and the Committee. He recalled that the Convention, which covered the entire field of human rights, was the first international instrument to set out the rights of the child so completely, giving them force of law. In other words, no institution or programme in the United Nations system had the competence or necessary capacity to ensure alone the full implemention of the Convention and the cooperation of the various elements of the system with the Committee was therefore an absolute necessity. While that collective action was one of the keys to the success of the Committee's work, it would also have a constructive impact on specialized agencies and United Nations organs, since it would oblige the latter to make clear the links between the various programmes of the bodies concerned in order to coordinate cooperation activities, to identify shortcomings in those programmes and the obstacles which hampered the effectiveness of the action undertaken and to determine what could be done subsequently. That would help to strengthen the political will of Governments and induce them to adopt the necessary decisions of principle in order to give fuller effect to the provisions of the Convention.

9. He stressed the importance of coordinating the cooperation activities under the Convention, which provided for no fewer than five ways of doing so: representation during the Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Convention's provisions, rendering of expert advice, submission of reports, provision of technical advice or assistance, and preparation of studies on specific questions - in which the specialized agencies and United Nations organs - which were themselves divided between "funding programmes" and research and training institutes - would be called upon to collaborate with the Committee. It was, moreover, in order to meet that need for coordinating the policies and activities that the five funding programmes of the United Nations system - UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IFAD and WPF - had recently set up a joint advisory group entrusted with the task of identifying

the shortcomings and problems within the system: the undertaking was not a vain one when consideration was given, for example, to the fact that, of the 35 bodies in the system with a mandate including a food security component, only a few were actively endeavouring to alleviate hunger problems and the fact that there was substantial competition between the country programmes executed by international agencies.

10. With regard to the contribution WFP could make to the Committee's work, he noted that nutrition and food security were essential factors for the well-being of children and referred to the note that he had transmitted to the secretariat of the Committee, describing the numerous activities of the Programme which were connected directly or indirectly with the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

11. As to the organization of cooperation between the specialized agencies, the United Nations organs and the Committee, he suggested that the latter should transmit to the executive directors of the bodies concerned a letter explaining precisely what was involved in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and requesting their full support in the execution of its task. It would be appropriate if one of the members of the Committee addressed the Administrative Committee on Coordination to inform it in detail of the Committee's work so that it would be that organ - a leading organ of the United Nations system - which took the decision of principle necessary for coordinating the support to be given to the Committee's work by the system as a whole. Each of the United Nations organs would then have to transmit that information, in the necessary form, to the beneficiaries of its activities.

12. It would also be necessary to collect, by making use of computerized systems, the vast quantity of statistics and data available to the specialized agencies and United Nations organs concerning their activities at the country level in a form that would facilitate the Committee's work, in particular the analyses of specific problems and trends. Moreover, it was important that the secretariat of the Committee should be in a position to provide effective assistance to the latter in its work, the importance of which was in proportion to the complexity of the Convention. If the resources of the Centre for Human Rights were not adequate to the task, the Committee could perhaps call on the specialized agencies and United Nations organs for assistance.

13. It would also be necessary to determine what types of study those agencies and organs could carry out either individually or collectively. It would be useful, for that purpose, to designate a person in each one who would be responsible for ensuring contact between the various bodies and with the Committee, as well as with any coordination organ that might be established at the national level. It would also be appropriate to set up, in the greatest possible number of countries possible, machinery through which public services, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and United Nations organs could genuinely cooperate in ensuring the rights of the child. In that connection, it was essential not to neglect the training and establishment activities of agencies so that the developing countries themselves could subsequently follow up the activities undertaken in order to give effect to those rights. Lastly, such collective action had to include the non-governmental organizations, which had already done considerable work in the field of the rights of the child, and it had to be determined how all

the active components could divide the work up among themselves according to the principle of comparative advantage. The basic point was that each of the bodies concerned should be aware of the vital importance of the tasks specified in the Convention and, therefore, accord them a high order of priority, which should be reflected in specific guidelines and programme activities.

14. Mr. SWEPSTON (International Labour Organisation), referring to the remarks made by Mr. Shaw, said that he, too, wished to assure the Committee that every specialized agency, with its special characteristics, was prepared to cooperate in the implementation of the Convention. ILO's cooperation with the Committee would concern in particular economic matters, such as child labour, but also questions of social security or those posed by the reunification of families of migrant workers. Members of the Committee would certainly have received the preliminary technical analysis of those problems which ILO had prepared for them.

15. The cooperation between ILO and the Committee might, in the first instance, take the form of joint consideration of the implementation of the Convention in general. In that connection, ILO would be pleased to provide the Committee with the expert advice envisaged in article 45 (a) of the Convention. It could also prepare studies at the Committee's request, but it would be necessary, in order to do so, for the latter to specify its requirements.

16. ILO and the Committee could also collaborate in promotional activities. ILO had already participated in a number of meetings which had been organized by the United Nations and at which reference had been made to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Conversely, ILO was counting on the presence of representatives of the Committee at the 1992 seminar on child bonded labour and at the 1993 or 1994 world congress on child labour. With regard to technical assistance, the Convention authorized the Committee to transmit to the specialized agencies any requests for assistance from States parties. That was also a field in which ILO could cooperate with the Committee. Moreover, in its technical cooperation projects, ILO would be able to take account of the requirements noted by the Committee.

17. The broadest field of interaction between ILO and the Committee concerned the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention by States. ILO already had some experience in that regard, since it had concluded arrangements for similar purposes with four United Nations treaty bodies. Furthermore, as was clear from the technical analysis distributed to the members of the Committee, a number of ILO Conventions were of direct concern to it. He noted, in that connection, that article 32 of the Convention constituted by itself a summary of some 15 ILO Conventions. With the United Nations treaty bodies, the method adopted consisted, for ILO, in transmitting to those bodies, during their consideration of national reports, the observations of the ILO monitoring bodies relating to the implementation of the relevant ILO Conventions in the countries concerned. ILO could also provide additional oral information by taking part in the consideration of States parties' reports. Lastly, it could provide information on technical assistance activities in designated countries.

Whatever methods the Committee proposed for cooperation with ILO would have to be submitted for approval by the organization's Governing Board and its Committee of Experts on the Application of ILO Conventions and Recommendations.

18. Mrs. POIRIER (United Nations Children's Fund), referring to the questions which had been left pending and had been put to her at the previous meeting, first of all assured Mgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi that UNICEF systematically attached great importance to collaboration with trade unions. In reply to Mr. Hammarberg, she said that UNICEF regarded the Convention not as a separate entity, but rather as a working framework for its own activities. Furthermore, the Convention helped to give the UNICEF programmes a global dimension which they had perhaps lacked thus far. She added, in response to the pertinent comments of Mrs. Santos País, that the specialized agencies' task was not only to help States to collect data and to prepare reports, but also to establish structures that enabled them to act. Since UNICEF was now making use of the Convention as a framework for action in the execution of its country programmes, all the data it collected on the follow-up of its programmes could usefully be made available to the Committee. The Committee was, however, invited to submit specific requests for information in view of the scope of the documentation produced by UNICEF.

19. Many speakers had stressed the need to coordinate the activities of UNICEF and the Committee. In that connection, she noted that, in itself, the Convention was already a good factor for coordination, both at the general level and at the local level, but that did not prevent efforts from being redoubled along those lines. Lastly, she assured the Committee that UNICEF was prepared to participate in all meetings at which the members of the Committee considered its presence desirable.

20. Mgr. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI, referring to the situation of children who, technically, were not refugees but displaced persons, either because of political violence or because of poverty, asked whether a specialized agency could look after such cases, which were often more tragic than those of actual refugees.

21. Mr. NORDENTOFT (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that Mgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi had raised a very relevant question, one whose dramatic nature did not escape UNHCR's notice. While it was true that displaced persons were not dealt with by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, they could benefit from protection under the OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of the refugee problem in Africa and the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, which gave the term "refugee" a broader definition. Moreover, the Secretary-General was currently studying with the High Commissioner for Refugees ways and means to deal with such situations, frequently tied in with the intervention of other States. It would be necessary to await the outcome of those discussions to know what means the international community preferred to use to alleviate the sufferings of displaced persons.

22. Mr. HAMMARBERG said that the absence of a UNESCO representative at the Committee's table was deplorable, particularly since UNESCO's mandate was closely related to the Committee's work. It was also a pity that an organization such as the World Bank had not sent a representative. All the

representatives of specialized agencies had stressed the great importance of the Convention for their own activities. All had offered to submit to the Committee information on their country programme. They all seemed to wish to cooperate with the Committee in carrying out studies, to provide it with expert advice and to make their contribution to the discussion of technical issues.

23. More specifically, he would like to suggest that the specialized agencies, the members of the Committee and the secretariat should undertake a joint study on documentation and share information. Like Mr. Shaw, he thought it essential to set up a system for the exchange of information. Before the Committee's next session, it might be well to hold a meeting of the Technical Advisory Group, which had already been mentioned, in order to study from a practical standpoint the modalities of interaction between the Committee and the specialized agencies within the framework of the consideration of States parties' reports. If, as had been said, the Committee should act as a catalyst for cooperation between the specialized agencies, it was essential that all concerned should meet in order to discuss specific questions.

24. Mr. SHAW (World Food Programme) advocated a global view of the problem of children in emergency situations. There were programmes for refugee children and displaced children, but it was essential not to lose sight of the problem of the children of host countries, whose situation was, paradoxically, sometimes worse than that of the refugee and displaced children, who received at least some assistance. It would therefore be necessary, following the example of IFAD, the World Bank and the World Food Programme, to elaborate and support disaster prevention and preparedness programmes. Furthermore, a better understanding should be gained of the machinery through which the affected households and communities sought to cope with disasters rather than systematically take parallel measures which might hamper traditional actions.

25. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS said that a number of conclusions were to be drawn from that common approach in favour of the rights of the child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child had played a real and important role by giving life to a dialogue between the various agencies and between the agencies and the United Nations treaty bodies. Furthermore, the principle of the indivisibility of the rights of the child had had an impact on the activities of the various agencies, now acting henceforth in a spirit of cooperation and dialogue. The exchange of views with the various agencies present had made it possible to identify certain measures which, it was generally agreed, were necessary: creation of joint information machinery which could serve both the Committee and the agencies; participation, especially on an advisory basis, of the various bodies attending the pre-sessional meetings of the Committee's Working Group; coordination of the dissemination of information on the Convention between the agencies themselves and between the agencies and the Committee; periodic evaluation of the progress made by each agency; and establishment of a follow-up system. The fruitful discussion gave the impression that the participation of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies was essential to the work of the Committee. It would therefore be desirable if other United Nations bodies, particularly the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, sent a representative to the Committee's meetings. Lastly, it

would indeed be very useful for the Committee to have a compendium, prepared by UNESCO, of the various UNESCO recommendations on education in human rights and, as appropriate, the rights of the child.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the comment made by Mrs. Santos País concerning the usefulness of the participation of other specialized agencies and United Nations organs was very pertinent. It would also be desirable for the World Bank and IMF to take part in the Committee's work. UNESCO had apologized for not being able to be represented at the Committee's current session because its General Conference was meeting at the same time.

The meeting was suspended at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 5.05 p.m.

27. Mr. KOLOSOV drew the attention of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies present to the fact that, at a previous meeting, the Committee had requested the secretariat to prepare a compendium of all international instruments dealing with the rights of the child and that it had decided to request the specialized agencies, the United Nations organs and other bodies to transmit to it a list of resolutions, declarations or instruments that should be included in the compendium.

28. Furthermore, since the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Committee had not yet been adopted on second reading, he proposed the insertion at the end of paragraph 1 of the amended draft rule 63 of the words: "taking into account the importance of the Committee's cooperation with the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other United Nations organs and other bodies".

29. Again the secretariat had circulated to members of the Committee a note (M/CRC/91/5) entitled "Questions relating to the Committee's methods of work in respect of the consideration of reports: statistical indicators". Paragraph 1 of that note stated the following: "... in considering its methods of work in respect of the consideration of reports, the Committee may wish to discuss its requirements for statistical information both from States parties and from outside sources". However, nothing in the guidelines prepared by the Committee defined the kind of statistical information it wished to receive from outside sources, namely the specialized agencies, United Nations organs and other bodies. Moreover, paragraph 2 stated that "the Committee may wish to consider ... whether it is appropriate and to what extent States parties should be requested to provide similar statistics of their own" [similar to those published by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other bodies]. The secretariat should therefore prepare for the Committee, with the assistance of the specialized agencies, United Nations organs and other bodies, a compendium of available statistical information concerning solely those States whose reports would be considered by the Committee.

30. Lastly, he proposed that the Committee's agenda for the next session should include the question of the preparation of a model table containing some 50 statistical indicators. The table would have two series of figures: those to be transmitted by Governments in their reports and those the secretariat would receive from competent specialized agencies.

31. Miss MASON, referring once again to the question of additional funding sources, said that the Committee should seriously consider the matter, to which UNICEF had partly responded. The statement by the representative of the World Food Programme raised two questions in her mind. Which were the funding bodies referred to? What was the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), what was its role and what would be the contents of the letter that it was proposed should be transmitted?

32. Mr. SHAW (World Food Programme) said that by the phrase "funding programmes of the United Nations system", he meant UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IFAD and WFP. They were non-specialized agencies which had funding programmes designed to assist in the execution of projects of various types. The Adminstrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) was composed of the executive heads of United Nations agencies, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General. The Committee might send to the executive heads a letter indicating clearly the existence and role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and requesting them to support its activities, mentioning in particular article 45 of the Convention. In addition, the Committee might request ACC to hear one of its members, who would inform ACC of the Committee's objectives and ask it to send to the competent bodies of the United Nations system a note inviting them to give some degree of priority to its activities.

33. Furthermore, United Nations agency funding came from various sources: assessed funds from Member States, calculated according to a specific scale; funds from financing bodies; and special capital funds. Through concerted action and on the basis of current programmes, it should be possible to obtain additional funding, however small. Lastly, one additional resource should not be neglected, that of major financial donors, who frequently accorded a very high degree of priority to activities within the Committee's mandate, i.e. the rights of the child. Naturally, the request to be made to those donors should be carefully drafted and coordinated with any requests from other bodies in the United Nations system.

34. Mrs. POIRIER (United Nations Children's Fund) said that all of UNICEF's activities concerned children and hence were related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She would like to know, therefore, whether Mr. Kolosov really wished to have a compendium of all the resolutions adopted by UNICEF, since there were very many of them.

35. UNICEF also was aware of the problems posed by so many sources of statistical data in the United Nations system. That was why it was not participating in the inter-agency task force set up to implement the recommendations made by the World Summit for Children, which would essentially be assigned the task of systematizing the data and indicators relating to the objectives for child protection in the 1990s. The work of that task force would make a useful contribution to the efforts to draw up a more balanced picture of the situation of children in the world.

36. ACC was admittedly an important mechanism, but it should not be forgotten that most of the specialized agencies were directed by executive bodies which had already adopted resolutions concerning their action to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It was therefore clear that the

specialized agencies had a mandate to act accordingly. The question of available resources was certainly essential, but, for the time being, the agencies' intention was to work in closer cooperation with the Committee in certain fields of concern to it, to include it in their own activities or to report to it on what they were doing. None of those things had great financial implications. In that way, UNICEF could certainly contribute to the holding of a regional meeting of the Committee. The important point at the present time was that the Committee should indicate specifically what it required and for which type of activities it would welcome financial assistance from the specialized agencies. The latter would thus be able to act more concretely by indicating what possibilities were open to them. Once again, the Committee should specify what it actually expected from the specialized agencies.

37. Mrs. EUFEMIO said she would like to know, in the light of the provisions of article 45 (b) of the Convention, whether it would be possible to establish a coordination centre of all the specialized agencies in each of the countries in which they operated in order to coordinate their activities with the main liaison centres of the Governments concerned. Cooperation and coordination did exist at the United Nations level, but more important was coordination and cooperation with the countries. It would be interesting to know whether all the specialized agencies would be prepared to work together at the country level, since it seemed that at the present time such cooperation was lacking.

38. Mrs. POIRIER (United Nations Children's Fund) said she recognized that it was at the national level that the activities of the specialized agencies were the most crucial and, in that connection, UNICEF could be very pleased that it had particularly dynamic field offices. The problem raised by Mrs. Eufemio involved coordination of the activities of specialized agencies and United Nations bodies in the field. There was an official coordination machinery directed by UNDP that was more or less effective, depending on the country concerned because of the specific characteristics of each particular country. For that reason UNICEF always tried to assign an important role in the coordination field to the Governments, which were in the final analysis the ones primarily responsible for what took place in their country. With specific regard to the Convention, it must not be forgotten, however, that it was a United Nations instrument and hence it was for the United Nations, in the first instance, to ensure its promotion through the Centre for Human Rights, even though UNICEF was prepared to contribute to that task. Each agency must play its role in that global effort within the framework of its mandate and in accordance with its functions.

39. Mr. HUSSAIN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that it would be appropriate to adopt the proposal made by the WFP representative, namely, to make use of the machinery that ACC represented. Indeed, it was when all the executive bodies of the specialized agencies met within ACC that they decided on what they would do at the country level. It was a solution that the Committee should consider seriously.

40. Mr. LOMBARDO (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said that coordination between the United Nations bodies undoubtedly posed a problem. It was not sufficient to prepare guidelines; it was also essential to have the resources necessary to implement them. The Committee none the

less had before it the representatives of five or six specialized agencies who expressed their readiness to collaborate with it. All that remained for it to do was to submit to them specific proposals on how they could assist it without dwelling further on the question of coordination.

41. Mr. HUSSAIN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) said that the Committee itself had been established for the purpose of coordination and he did not understand why such coordination could not be achieved at the central level. Official guidelines formulated by the highest coordination body of the system could not fail to be useful. All the specialized agencies present had agreed to help the Committee but, without guidelines from above, problems would inevitably arise at the country level. The Committee was, of course, free to act as it wished.

42. Mgr. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI asked Miss Mason whether the concern she had expressed about the Committee's funding had been met and whether she was satisfied with the answers to her questions.

43. Miss MASON said that she was satisfied with the answers in that the Committee had apparently obtained a firm assurance that it would receive the financial assistance it required.

44. Mgr. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI said he would welcome further details about the resources the members of the Committee would have in order to fulfil their individual responsibilities and to carry out the duties that had been entrusted to them. Article 43, paragraph 12, of the Convention did not seem clear in that regard; in particular, he would welcome clarification of the meaning of the word "emoluments", which could be interpreted as a kind of personal financial compensation granted to the members of the Committee.

45. Mrs. KLEIN-BIDMON (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, like those of the other bodies concerned with human rights, namely, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, were paid annually an honorarium to cover the costs involved in the obligation to interrupt some of their activities so as to participate in the Committee's sessions at Geneva. The honorarium was $3,000 per year for each of the members and $5,000 for the Chairman.

46. Mgr. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI said it was his understanding, therefore, that the members of the Committee would have to obtain on the spot the administrative facilities necessary to carry out their tasks, in particular through the field offices of UNICEF or other United Nations bodies.

47. Mrs. KLEIN-BIDMON (Representative of the Secretary-General) said that, under the Convention, the secretariat of the Committee would consist of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights, in particular, that of the Implementation Branch.

48. Mr. HAMMARBERG said that he would point out, in order to avoid any confusion, that the specialized agencies had no role to play in the funding of the Committee's regular work, which was provided for in the regular budget of the United Nations. Their financial assistance would be useful only where the

Committee wished to undertake special activities such as preparing specific studies or holding informal meetings. The Committee could perhaps revert in greater length to the question raised by Mgr. Bambaren Gastelumendi on the subject of article 43, paragraphs 11 and 12, when it examined its methods of work. It was necessary to submit to the General Assembly an evaluation of the resources the Committee would require in order to perform its task, taking into account the great number of new ratifications of the Convention, which exceeded all expectations.

49. Mgr. BAMBAREN GASTELUMENDI said he would welcome confirmation that UNICEF and the Bureau of the Committee would be in touch with one another with a view to holding the regional meeting.

50. Mrs. POIRIER (United Nations Children's Fund) reaffirmed that UNICEF was entirely in favour of that idea and was prepared to undertake, in collaboration with other specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, the preparatory work for that meeting.

51. The CHAIRMAN noted that important questions had been raised during the discussion, in particular the Committee's methods of cooperation with the specialized agencies and other United Nations organs, and the extra-budgetary funding of the Committee, a question which Mr. Hammarberg had suggested that the Committee should consider later on in greater detail. It had already been decided that a regional meeting, the cost of which was to be borne by UNICEF, would be held in Colombia. Interesting proposals had been made on the subject of coordination between United Nations organs at the country level and mention had been made in that regard of the coordination machinery already established for that purpose under the auspices of UNDP as well as of the guidelines given by their executive bodies to the various specialized agencies. UNICEF had stressed that the coordination of activities undertaken by the United Nations organs and the various countries should be ensured not only by those organs themselves but also and primarily by Governments.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.